

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-03 L-01 SP-02 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 PRS-01 /041 W

----- 061824

P 211905Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8925

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY 4721

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6487

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, TU, UK, IT, NATO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PROTEST OVER NAVOCFORMED ACTIVATION IN ADRIATIC

REF: A. STATE 254351 (NOTAL) B. STATE 253509

1. UPON RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B, MISSION COORDINATED WITH ITALIAN, TURKISH AND UK DELEGATIONS. FOUR AGREED TO PROPOSE FOR APPROVAL OF OTHER ALLIES FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS STATEMENT TO BE USED BY NATO SPOKESMAN ON "IF ASKED" BASIS:

QUOTE ACTIVATION OF THE NATO NAVAL-ON-CALL FORCE, MEDITERRANEAN IS A ROUTINE EXERCISE PERIODICALLY HELD TO CONDUCT NORMAL OPERATIONS AND TO TEST NATO NAVAL PROCEDURES IN DEFENSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA. AS DURING PAST ACTIVATIONS, EXERCISE "DUTY FAN" WAS CONDUCTED IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. DURING THE EXERCISE NAVOCFORMED
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VISITED TOULON, NAPLES, PALERMO, VENICE, AND ANCONA. UNQUOTE

2. SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED AMONG THE PERMREPS AT INFORMAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 19 AND PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE WAS APPROVED.

PERMREPS ALSO EXCHANGED INFORMATION ABOUT YUGOSLAV DEMARCHES IN WASHINGTON AND ANKARA (U.S. CHARGE MCAULIFFE DREW ON REF A), AND AGREED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF FOUR DELEGATIONS SHOULD REMAIN IN TOUCH.

3. AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 21 THE FOUR ALLIED REPS AGAIN MET. FOLLOWING INFORMATION EMERGED FROM THAT MEETING:

-- AGREED PRESS GUIDANCE WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO NATO PRESS SPOKESMAN ON AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 19, BUT THUS FAR IT APPEARS HE HAS HAD NO OCCASION TO DRAW UPON IT.

-- ON NOVEMBER 20 YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR IN ROME CALLED UPON ITALIAN SECRETARY GENERAL, MFA, MAKING SAME POINTS PREVIOUSLY MADE IN BELGRADE BUT IN MARKEDLY LESS STRIDENT TONE. ONE HIGH-LIGHT HOWEVER WAS THAT YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR ALLEGED THAT IN COURSE OF SIMILAR DEMARCHE IN WASHINGTON HIS GOVERNMENT RECEIVED U.S. ASSURANCES NATO WILL NOT AGAIN UNDERTAKE A SIMILAR NAVAL EXERCISE IN THE ADRIATIC. ITALIAN MFA REPORTEDLY CHECKED THIS WITH U.S. EMBASSY ROME AND UPON LEARNING IT WAS UNTRUE, ITALIAN SECRETARY GENERAL SO INFORMED THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR.

-- UK REP NOT SURE WHETHER YUGOSLAVS HAVE YET REPEATED THEIR BELGRADE DEMARCHE IN LONDON.

-- UK HAS OBSERVED THAT THESE PROTESTS ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY A MAJOR YUGOSLAV PUBLIC MEDIA EFFORT.

-- NONE OF THE FOUR REPS KNEW OF PLANS ON THE PART OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ANY FURTHER RESPONSE TO THE YUGOSLAVS. ITALIAN AND U.K. REPS HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO THAT EFFECT.

-- FOUR NOTED PRESS REPORTS ALBANIANS HAVE NOW MADE SIMILAR PUBLIC PROTEST OF THIS NATO EXERCISE IN ADRIATIC. ITALIANS AND TURKS WHO HAVE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES IN TIRANIA HAVE HEARD NOTHING OFFICIALLY.

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4. COMMENT: MISSION AGREES THIS YUGOSLAV PROTEST SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN STRICTLY FOR THE RECORD, SO THAT BELGRADE CAN POINT TO IT IN EVENT THEY FEEL NEED TO OBJECT TO FUTURE SOVIET OR WARSAW PACT MILITARY OR NAVAL MANEUVERS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO06487
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741185/abbryyqd.tel
Line Count: 102
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A. STATE 254351 (NOTAL) B. STATE 253509
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YUGOSLAV PROTEST OVER NAVOCFORMED ACTIVATION IN ADRIATIC
TAGS: PFOR, YO, TU, UK, IT, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
BELGRADE
MADRID
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005